

AS

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/601,167	OLIN-NUNEZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric Hug	1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on May 17, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-6.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The first sentence of the specification has been amended as follows:

This application is a Continuation-in-part of USSN 09/816,254, filed March 23, 2001, now abandoned.

Authorization for the following examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jay Cinamon on June 14, 2004.

Claim 6 has been amended as follows:

6. (Currently Amended) A method of producing commercial glass in a glass melting furnace using the combustion of pulverized fuel as a heating source for melting raw materials for producing glass, the method comprising:

a) providing feeding means for dosing a regulated and highly controlled flow of an exact weight of a mixture of pulverized fuel and air or gas under pressure for pneumatic transport, said pulverized fuel comprising fixed carbon and impurities selected from the group consisting of sulfur, nitrogen, vanadium, iron, nickel, and mixtures thereof;

b) ~~said feeding means comprising:~~

- (i) b) storing the pulverized fuel in said feeding means;
- (ii) c) discharging the pulverized fuel from the feeding means toward at least one main pipe;
- (iii) d) mixing the pulverized fuel with a first flow of air or gas for producing a pulverized fuel-air or gas mixture, said pulverized fuel-air or gas mixture being distributed toward said pipe;
- (iv) e) regulating in a controlled manner the pulverized fuel-air or gas mixture from the main pipe to each of a plurality of burners of a specific design in a glass melting region of the glass melting furnace for operating said burners in alternate operating cycles between combustion and non-combustion cycles;
- (v) f) supplying simultaneously a second flow of air or gas together with the pulverized fuel-air or gas mixture to each of said burners of specific design whereby a combustion cycle is carried out in the glass melting furnace; ~~and~~
- (vi) g) returning the flow of pulverized fuel-air or gas mixture from the main pipe toward the feeding means while the alternate operating cycle on the burners is carried out;
- (e) h) burning said pulverized fuel by means of said burners of specific design in the glass melting region of said glass melting furnace while providing a combustion flame with high thermal efficiency to carry out a controlled heating for melting the commercial glass; and
- (d) i) counteracting erosive and abrasive effects of the pulverized fuel in the glass melting furnace by means of refractory materials, said refractory materials being selected from the group consisting of a fused cast material of zircon-silica-alumina, magnesium oxide, magnesia, zirconium-silicate, and mixtures thereof.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-6 are allowed.

Reasons for allowance were provided in the previous office action.

Response to Arguments

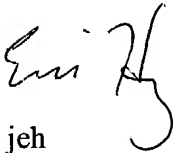
Applicant's amendments to the claims have overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth previously for claim 1, now cancelled, which has been rewritten as new claim 6.

Art Unit: 1731

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


jeh